

One in 10 South Africans HIV positive

14 May 2013

One in ten South Africans is HIV positive but AIDS-related deaths are falling as ramped-up treatment begins to have an impact, the country's official statistics agency said Tuesday.

After years of dragging its heels on the [HIV/AIDS](#) crisis, since 2004 South Africa has developed the world's largest [HIV treatment](#) programme.

New data indicate that drive is working. The disease will be responsible for 32 percent of all deaths this year.

While still high, that is a dramatic fall from 48 percent in 2005.

"Medicine has advanced and people are living with HIV and AIDS," [statistician](#)-general Pali Lehohla told AFP, unveiling data that point to a dramatic drop in AIDS-related deaths.

[Average life expectancy](#) has also increased to 59.6 years, from just 51.6 in 2005.

But the scale of the problem is huge, with 5.3 million people living with HIV out of a population of nearly 53 million.

The state had 1.9 million people on treatment in April this year.

Statistics South Africa released its last mid-year estimates, which uses modelled figures, in 2011.

The country's population growth rate is just over one percent.

© 2013 AFP

APA citation: One in 10 South Africans HIV positive (2013, May 14) retrieved 27 April 2021 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2013-05-south-africans-hiv-positive.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.